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**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION
OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**Forty-sixth session
New Delhi, India
21 – 31 July 2024**

**Item 7B of the Provisional Agenda:
State of conservation of properties inscribed
on the of World Heritage List**

Summary

This document contains information on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. The World Heritage Committee is requested to review the reports on the state of conservation of properties contained in this document. The full reports of Reactive Monitoring missions requested by the World Heritage Committee are available at the following Web address in their original language: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/46COM/documents>

All previous state of conservation reports will be available through the World Heritage State of conservation Information System at the following Web address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc>

Decision required: The World Heritage Committee may wish to adopt the draft Decision presented at the end of each state of conservation report.

Note: For each section, the reports are presented in the English alphabetical order of States Parties.

TABLE OF CONTENT

CULTURAL PROPERTIES	2
EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA	2
6. Le Havre, the City rebuilt by Auguste Perret (France) (C 1181)	2
13. Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte in Braga (Portugal) (C 1590)	5
15. Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape (Türkiye) (C 1488).....	9
16. Historic Areas of Istanbul (Türkiye) (C 356bis)	13
17. Derwent Valley Mills (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (C 1030)..	13
AFRICA	14
21. Aksum (Ethiopia) (C 15).....	14
23. Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove (Nigeria) (C 1118).....	16
24. Stone Town of Zanzibar (United Republic of Tanzania) (C 173rev).....	16
ASIA AND PACIFIC	17
35. Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape (Lao People's Democratic Republic) (C 481).....	17
38. Archaeological Ruins at Moenjodaro (Pakistan) (C 138).....	21
43. Central Sector of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long – Hanoi (Viet Nam) (C 1328).....	24
MIXED PROPERTIES	25
EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA	25
44. Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region (Albania, North Macedonia) (C/N 99quater)	25
45. Laponian Area (Sweden) (C/N 774).....	25
AFRICA	26
48. Ngorongoro Conservation Area (United Republic of Tanzania) (C/N 39bis).....	26
ARAB STATES.....	27
49. The Ahwar of Southern Iraq: Refuge of Biodiversity and the Relict Landscape of the Mesopotamian Cities (Iraq) (C/N 1481)	27
NATURAL PROPERTIES	28
EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA	28
50. Białowieża Forest (Belarus, Poland) (N 33ter)	28
51. Wadden Sea (Denmark, Germany, Netherlands) (N 1314ter).....	28
52. Lake Baikal (Russian Federation) (N 754).....	28
53. Volcanoes of Kamchatka (Russian Federation) (N 765bis).....	28
AFRICA	32
59. Serengeti National Park (United Republic of Tanzania) (N 156)	32
60. Mosi-oa-Tunya / Victoria Falls (Zambia, Zimbabwe) (N 509)	32

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

6. Le Havre, the City rebuilt by Auguste Perret (France) (C 1181)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2005

Criteria (ii)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1181/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1181/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

May-June 2023: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Advisory mission; March 2024: joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Housing (high rise tower)
- Weakness of the planning and management systems in place

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1181/>

Current conservation issues

Between 2019 and 2023, a high-rise building was erected within the World Heritage property, without prior notification to the World Heritage Committee, as required by Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. An Advisory mission took place on 31 May and 1 June 2023 and provided a set of recommendations which were endorsed by the World Heritage Committee in its Decision **45 COM 7B.184**. On 26 January 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1181/documents/> and presents progress in the implementation of the above-mentioned Decision as follows:

- The Heritage Code of 2016 defines the responsibilities of the different levels of public administration in the preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of World Heritage properties;
- The Local Urban Plan (PLU) is the main planning instrument at the municipal level, whilst the Remarkable Heritage Sites (SPR) are regulated by the rules for Architecture and Heritage Enhancement Areas (AVAP). Ensuring coherence between the AVAP and the provisions of the PLU is mandatory;
- To strengthen the protection system, the State Party intends to modify the regulation of the SPR to provide a solid framework for existing exceptions by removing them in the perimeter of the World Heritage property and specifying them in the buffer zone. These modifications will be integrated into the updated PLU to ensure consistency. Deliberation for approval of these modifications is expected by spring 2025. The draft intercommunal PLU (PLUi) will integrate the above-mentioned changes and is scheduled for approval by the end of 2025;

- Experiments with façade lighting will be presented to the Reactive Monitoring mission. No specific lighting display is envisaged for the Tour Alta and the only lights planned are for residential and functional purposes. To avoid the formation of a halo on the underside of the balconies, it has been requested that luminaires be positioned outside, away from the façade. The city of Le Havre, in consultation with the Architects of the Buildings of France (ABF) and the Regional Cultural Affairs Department (DRAC) intends to develop an urban study to re-consider the public spaces around the Tour, based on the recommendations of the Advisory mission. The outcomes of the study will be incorporated into the Management and Programming Guidelines of the PLU and, eventually, into the integrated PLUi;
- Activities to improve the energy performance of existing buildings have been in place since the 1980s and will continue. The Urban Community of Le Havre Seine Metropole provides financial support to co-owners of listed buildings for their energy efficiency projects. With a view to preserving biodiversity, the SPR regulation encourages the preservation and increase of green spaces in the building blocks. With regard to public spaces, their management aims at rebalancing the urban ecosystems by increasing and diversifying the vegetation through the plan “Nature in the city” (*Nature en ville*).

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission was carried out from 27 to 28 March 2024, the report of which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1181/documents>.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The State Party has announced steps to remedy the negative impacts of the Tour Alta and to strengthen the protection system to avoid the possibility of future projects with adverse impacts on the OUV of the property. These actions have not been implemented yet.

The 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission found that the main recommendations made to the State Party with the aim of improving the overall state of conservation of the property since the 2023 Advisory mission, have not yet been implemented. The analysis of the current system of protection and management reveals a challenging situation, particularly with regard to the requirements arising from the World Heritage status at the local level. In recent years, several important projects have been undertaken in the property and its buffer zone without informing the Committee as required by Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines. Nor has the State Party systematically complied with the provisions of the Operational Guidelines on impact assessments. Furthermore, the protective function of the buffer zone is not guaranteed.

The State Party is committed to modifying the regulations of the SPR to strengthen the existing protection system of the property. However, as noted by the mission, the intention to allow a maximum height of 35 metres in a part of the buffer zone combined with the possibility of erecting buildings ‘with no maximum height’ in a main visual axis immediately behind the World Trade Centre would increase the vulnerability of the property, despite the fact that, in 2023, the World Heritage Committee noted with concern that the integrity of the property may no longer be guaranteed. It is thus suggested that the Committee request the State Party to exclude the possibility of buildings higher than 25 metres and seven storeys not only within the property but also in the entire buffer zone.

Regrettably, the mission found that the integration of the Tour Alta into the property appears to be problematic, due to its colour, its blind ground floor and the removal of the anticipated ‘visual permeability’ of the building. The announced urban planning study appears to be of strategic importance in order to partially mitigate the negative impact of the Tour Alta from an urban perspective. However, its mitigating potential is diminished by the ongoing project on the Place du Vieux Marché in the Notre-Dame district, which deviates from the Protection-Evolution Plan by making the public space predominantly plant-based rather than ‘mainly mineral’. The project was not notified to the World Heritage Centre as required by Paragraph 172 and its implementation shows a lack of compliance with the local system for the protection of the property.

The mission identified other projects that are likely to have an impact on one or more attributes underlying the OUV of the property. The World Heritage Committee may wish to request that project documentation be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS prior to any decision. The review of ongoing or new projects within the property also confirmed the need to strengthen the protection and management system of the property through a combined set of measures, including the systematic implementation of the Operational Guidelines on prior notification and Heritage Impact Assessments in accordance with Paragraphs 172 and 118bis respectively.

The mission also noted the challenges of restoring the concrete facades of the historic city blocks rebuilt by Auguste Perret, while seeking solutions to reduce their energy consumption, and provided ad hoc recommendations.

All of this confirms the increasing vulnerability of the property's OUV-bearing attributes. The Reactive Monitoring mission has offered several essential measures to strengthen the property's protection and improve its state of conservation, which the World Heritage Committee may wish to recommend to the State Party to fully implement in order to reduce the vulnerability of the property and ensure that its OUV can be maintained in the long term.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.2,*
2. *Recalling Decision 45 COM 7B.184, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Reminds the State Party of the need to inform it, through the World Heritage Centre, before making decisions that are difficult to reverse, of the intention to undertake or authorise, in an area protected by the Convention, major restorations or new constructions that could modify the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, as requested by Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;*
4. *Requests the State Party to provide the World Heritage Centre with the documentation on the following proposals mentioned during the 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission:*
 - a) *The specifications for the urban planning study currently underway prior to the development of a project for a future World Trade Centre,*
 - b) *The project currently underway on the site of the former École de Commerce and the proposed new water sports centre on the boulevard Clémenceau,*
 - c) *Any other project which may affect the OUV of the property;*
5. *Further request the State Party to implement as soon as possible the recommendations already made by the 2023 Advisory mission, in particular to promptly carry out the urban planning study of the Notre-Dame and Saint-François districts, including the area known as the "Monumental Triangle", and to submit it to the World Heritage Centre for review by ICOMOS, and in this regard, also requests the State Party:*
 - a) *To pay particular attention to ensuring compliance with the Architecture and Heritage Enhancement Areas (AVAP) - Remarkable Heritage Sites (SPR) rules set out and specified in the Protection-Evolution Plan, in particular with regard to the Place du Vieux Marché,*
 - b) *Not to amend the Protection-Evolution Plan to accommodate any new development that does not comply with it;*
6. *Recommends that the State Party take into account the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, in particular the paragraphs on the role of the buffer zone and the wider setting, and the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), when revising the SPR regulation;*
7. *Strongly recommends the State Party to ensure that the revised planning document provides for the general maximum height rule for new buildings (25 metres and seven*

storeys) not only within the property, but also in its entire buffer zone, and removes the possibility of constructing buildings with no height limit in the axis of the monumental composition of the Bassin du Commerce;

8. Further recommends that the State Party include, in extenso, in the planning and heritage legislation of the intercommunal Local Urban Plan (PLUi):
 - a) Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines,
 - b) The general rules (AVAP equivalent to SPR) regarding the architectural quality of new buildings to be erected within the perimeter of the property and its buffer zone;
9. Requests furthermore the State Party to submit the final draft of the amended SPR document to the World Heritage Centre prior to its submission to the local SPR Commission, and then to bring it in its final approved form to the attention of the World Heritage Committee;
10. Recommends moreover to the State Party to review the Management Plan for the property, following the revision of the SPR, and to ensure that it is consistent with maintaining the OUV of the property by:
 - a) Taking into account the revised SPR,
 - b) Incorporating certain provisions of the Operational Guidelines, particularly Paragraphs 112, 118bis and 172, and
 - c) Ensuring that it is updated in the spirit of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the HUL;
11. Further requests the State Party to implement all other recommendations of the 2024 Reactive Monitoring mission and the 2023 Advisory mission;
12. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

13. Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte in Braga (Portugal) (C 1590)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2019

Criteria (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1590/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1590/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

N/A

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Legal framework (classify the whole site as a National Monument)
- Management System/Management Plan (improve the documentation, update and supplement the Management Plan, improve the Action Plan, visitor management, improve institutional links between stakeholders)
- Low impact research/monitoring activities (develop additional monitoring indicators and improve the documentation related to heritage elements)
- Buildings and development (remove the terrace bar)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1590/>

Current conservation issues

On 12 December 2023, the State Party submitted a report on the state of conservation of the property, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1590/documents/>. The report presents the progress made by the State Party on a number of conservation issues raised by the Committee at the time of the inscription and at its extended 44th session (Decision **44 COM 7B.158**), as follows:

- The inventory and archiving of the heritage elements is underway. The collection can be consulted on site and online and a georeferenced database of immovable, movable and natural elements will be promoted;
- The park and the wood have benefitted from appropriate conservation work, thanks to sufficient investment and volunteer work: 2,500 new trees have been planted, favouring autochthonous species, dead and decaying trees have been removed and, where necessary, volumes have been reduced. The Confraternity of Bom Jesus acquired a plot of land on the southern border of the Bom Jesus wood, which posed a significant fire risk to the property;
- The revision process of the Braga Master Plan is expected to be announced in early 2024;
- The municipalities of Braga and Guimarães have created the Association 'Sacromontes de Braga e Guimarães' to implement the 'Intermunicipal Sacromontes Programme', which promotes the enhancement and restoration of the built heritage, the protection and active management of the forest area and landscape, and the promotion of the area of high heritage and touristic value;
- The Municipal Forest Fire Defence Plans of the municipalities of Braga and Guimarães are operational. An integrated and adaptive intermunicipal strategy is still needed;
- There have been no major construction works since 2021 and consequently no Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) have been undertaken. The removal of the terrace bar has not yet been carried out, although it has been authorised, as the necessary funding has not yet been received under the Programme 'Bom Jesus: Requalificar III'. However, the Confraternity has planned to remove it in December 2023;
- With the exception of the work undertaken in the wood, the remaining actions of the revised Action Plan were not implemented due to lack of funding. The programme 'Bon Jesus: Requalificar III' is on hold and no alternative funding has been identified;
- A detailed Conservation Plan requires technical expertise that is not yet available within the Confraternity's working team, which is planned to be renewed over the next three to five years in order to be able to implement the Plan effectively. A revised and more effective monitoring system will be included in the future Conservation Plan;
- In 2023, the number of visitors has increased to higher rates than in the pre-COVID period. The production of visitor guides and training for guided tours were implemented in 2022 and 2023 as part of an Action Plan on Tourism. However, other actions such as the signage and the Interpretation Centre have not been realised due to lack of funding. A Tourism Management Plan with actions, timetables and dedicated resources has not been established.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The continuation of the work on the inventory and archiving of the heritage elements is welcome, although the Committee may regret that it has not been completed four years after inscription.

The work on the park and the wood, which has helped maintaining their adequate state of conservation, is welcome. However, the development of additional monitoring indicators, as requested by the

Committee at the time of inscription and in its Decision **44 COM 7B.158**, has not been reported by the State Party.

The State Party did not provide details on the concrete revisions of the Braga Master Plan to be initiated in early 2024. Therefore, no information has been received since the last decision of the Committee as to whether specific actions will be included to monitor the urban expansion/developments that may have an impact on the property, its buffer zone and the wider setting.

Although the continuation of the 'Intermunicipal Sacromontes Programme' is welcomed, the need for an integrated and adaptive intermunicipal strategy for the property, its buffer zone and wider setting to closely monitor the threat of fire should be underlined and effective measures taken.

Although no major construction projects are reported to be planned or underway, the Committee may wish to recall that HIAs of proposed developments within the property, including their potential cumulative impacts, need to be systematically undertaken and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies in accordance with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines and based on the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context.

It is regrettable that, despite the commitment of the State Party to remove the terrace bar noted by the Committee in 2021 (Decision **44 COM 7B.158**), this had still not been done at the time of the submission of the report on the state of conservation. Given that at the time of inscription, the Committee had already requested the State Party to provide a firm and more precise commitment on 'the timing of the removal of the terrace bar' (Decision **43 COM 8B.31**), it is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request and further request the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre of the removal of the terrace bar, which it has reported will take place in December 2023.

The Committee may regret that the lack of funding, in particular the suspension of the 'Bom Jesus: Requalificar III' programme, has caused the State Party to postpone the demolition of the terrace bar, which was explicitly referred to in earlier Committee Decisions, as well as the placement of signposting, including for the nature walk, the rehabilitation of the funicular stop ("Elevador square"), the rehabilitation of the Casa dos Correios and the creation of the Interpretation Centre, the restoration of the exterior of the three chapels in the Yard of the Evangelists, and the rehabilitation of the Portico area. It is therefore recommended that the Committee invite the State Party to redouble its efforts to identify appropriate sources of funding for the implementation of the removal of the terrace bar and the other mentioned rehabilitation projects as soon as possible.

It is noted that the Confraternity's working team may need additional time and resources to be fully operational and to ensure effective implementation of a detailed Conservation Plan. However, the timeframe of three to five years for the renewal of the team to upgrade its technical capacity is considered too long. It is important that the Confraternity and the State Party actively collaborate in seeking technical expertise from relevant public institutions and authorities to update the Management Plan in a timely manner, which should include a detailed Conservation Plan, a well-developed and articulated Tourism Management Plan, the results of the vegetation study to present, manage and sustain the vegetation, particularly the tree heritage, and a revised and more effective monitoring system to ensure regular reporting on conservation work, the state of the park and the wood, the impact of visitation and the threat of urban expansion/development and forest fires.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.2,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **43 COM 8B.31** and **44 COM 7B.158**, adopted at its 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively,*
3. *Takes note of the progress accomplished and welcomes the efforts of the State Party to maintain adequate conservation work for the wood and to acquire a plot of land in an area that represents a significant risk of fire for the property;*

4. Expresses its concern at the slow progress in the implementation of its previous requests, including at the time of inscription, and requests the State Party to expedite its work on:
 - a) Completing the inventory of the heritage elements of the property,
 - b) Developing additional monitoring indicators to address the state of conservation of the park and woodland,
 - c) Revising the Braga Master Plan and include as a specific action a monitoring mechanism for urban expansion/development that may have an impact on the property, its buffer zone and its wider setting,
 - d) Closely monitoring the threat of fire, through the continuation of the 'Intermunicipal Sacromontes Programme' and the creation of an integrated and adaptive intermunicipal strategy with concrete actions and measures to be taken,
 - e) Updating the Management Plan to include:
 - (i) A revised Action Plan, detailing the proposed actions in the property with an associated timetable,
 - (ii) A detailed Conservation Plan, as the basis for a well-planned and long-term conservation approach,
 - (iii) A Tourism Management Plan that includes actions, time schedules and dedicated resources,
 - (iv) The results of the vegetation study to present, manage and sustain the vegetation, particularly the tree heritage, as an important element of the property that supplements its landscape attributes,
 - (v) A revised and more effective monitoring system by ensuring regular reporting on conservation work, the state of the park and wood, the impact of visitation and the threat of urban expansion/development and forest fires;
5. Further requests the State Party to confirm to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible the removal of the terrace bar requested at the time of inscription and reported to have taken place in December 2023 following the submission of the state of conservation report;
6. Expresses further concern at the number of activities that have not been implemented due to lack of adequate funding and expertise, and calls upon the State Party to make every effort to find additional and/or alternative sources of funding and the necessary expertise for their implementation;
7. Recalls that Heritage Impact Assessments of proposed developments within the property, including their potential cumulative impacts, need to be undertaken, in accordance with Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines and based on the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and submitted to the World Heritage Centre in advance of the proposed developments;
8. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session.

15. Diyarbakır Fortress and Hevsel Gardens Cultural Landscape (Türkiye) (C 1488)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2015

Criteria (iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1488/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1488/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

November-December 2022: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Concern about the situation in Diyarbakır as reported since 40th session (2016) (problem solved)
- Rehabilitation and reconstruction works and development, urban design and landscape projects
- Ground transport infrastructure
- Water infrastructure
- Impacts of tourism/visitors/recreation
- Management system/Management and Conservation Plan modified
- Land Conversion

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1488/>

Current conservation issues

On 1 February 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report. Its executive summary is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1488/documents/>. The report provides information on the measures implemented by the State Party in response to Decision **45 COM 7B.57**, as follows:

- Restoration of the city walls and removal of illegal structures continues, including in response to the 2023 earthquake, all under archaeological oversight as required by law. A report is provided;
- An Urban Design and Landscape Project for the area between the city walls and the Touristic Road has been developed and will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review when completed;
- The recommendations of the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission are being implemented, including:
 - Halting the landscaping of the lower İçkale area until archaeological studies have been completed and their conclusions reported to the World Heritage Centre,
 - Urgent stabilisation of the Amida Mound and undertaking of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) studies,
 - Undertaking a preliminary analysis of the current situation in the Hevsel Gardens, specifically in relation to agriculture and water management. Further analysis is ongoing. A report is provided,
 - Preparing mitigation measures for the area of the Ten-Eyed Bridge which will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review,
 - Halting the Tigris River Rehabilitation Project and evaluating proposals to reduce the impact of the project. A Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) was submitted to the World Heritage Centre in December 2018;

- A Cultural HIA will be carried out for the Anzele Urban Design Project;
- No large-scale demolitions were undertaken in the Suriçi district in the buffer zone. Security incidents in 2015-16 led to destruction, after which government institutions initiated rehabilitation. Details of expropriation and negotiation processes with the right holders are provided;
- The Diyarbakır (Suriçi) Conservation Development Plan is legally binding and reverting to earlier versions of the plan is not legally possible. Translated copies of the 2012, 2016 and 2020 versions of the plan are appended to the report. The Dicle Feritköşk Urban Renewal project in the buffer zone, including the removal of illegal structures, is critical and also legally binding;
- A protocol has been signed between the General Directorate of Cultural Properties and Museums and the Diyarbakır Municipality. The Municipality is updating the Management Plan, which will be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption;
- A Cultural HIA was submitted to the World Heritage Centre for the Tram Line Project as an Annex to the 2022 State of conservation report. The project is currently on hold.

The State Party expressed its eagerness to continue discussions with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, including to:

- Reconsider all recommendations regarding Suriçi, which, as part of the buffer zone cannot be considered as an attribute of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property;
- Find options to mitigate the negative impact of the mosque constructed close to the Ten Eyed Bridge, other than its relocation.

A meeting was held between the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS on 18 April 2024 to discuss the State Party's response to the recommendations of the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission and to initiate a process of dialogue.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS

The 2022 mission concluded that the property was faced with imminent danger due to a significant loss of integrity, cultural significance and supporting historic urban fabric. This conclusion reinforced the view of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies that the property faced an ascertained and potential danger as defined in Paragraph 179 of the Operational Guidelines, and therefore its inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger was recommended at the extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023).

The continued commitment of resources to the research and restoration of the city walls and the repair of the damage caused by the 2023 earthquake contributes to the maintenance of the integrity and authenticity of this component of the property. Other actions reported by the State Party, including the suspension of projects, the conduct of specialist studies and HIAs, the development of mitigation measures for inappropriate interventions, archaeological investigations at the Citadel and the stabilisation of the Amida Mound, are therefore welcome.

The state of conservation of the Hevsel Gardens remains of great concern. The initial study of the Gardens submitted by the State Party provides a record of the status quo, but no information on the historic development of agricultural practices was provided. The further studies that the State Party intends to undertake should focus on changes that have occurred since the inscription of the property in terms of plot size, crops, use, ownership, and historical and functional links to the city, as well as socio-historical agricultural practices and ecological studies. The State Party reports that the use of traditional irrigation techniques hinders the efficient water use and leads to the problem of soil erosion due to excessive irrigation, affecting the productivity of the soil. However, an in-depth study of the contribution of traditional irrigation techniques to the property's OUV needs to be undertaken before considering alternatives.

The 2022 mission reported that considerable changes to the Ten-Eyed Bridge have virtually destroyed its historic setting. Urgent mitigation of these negative impacts is required, and the State Party should be requested to provide options for feasible actions to reverse the negative impacts of the developments that have taken place there since inscription.

The contribution of Suriçi to the OUV of the property should not be understated and should be understood within its urban and landscape settings. As such, the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value states that: 'the ability to view the walls within their urban and landscape settings is significant, as are the hydrological and natural resources that support the functional and visual qualities of the property'. The historical settlements in the buffer zone therefore provide a setting for the integrity of the

property. The submission of all previous updates of the Diyarbakır (Suriçi) Conservation Development Plan, as requested by the Committee, is welcome. However, there is a need to re-evaluate the current plan, based on an evaluation of the status quo of the built fabric of Suriçi through an assessment of the need to protect the urban fabric, as requested by the Committee at the time of inscription (Decision **39 COM 8B.32**), and to develop an update of the plan through an iterative HIA process. An ICOMOS Technical Review is in preparation. The same process should be followed for the Dicle Feritköşk Urban Renewal Plan, for which the 2022 mission recommended that an independent HIA should be commissioned.

An ICOMOS Technical Review in 2023 of an HIA, that assessed seven projects that were already implemented at the time the HIA was undertaken, determined its conclusions to be appropriate, but recommended that action plans be developed to ensure implementation of the mitigation measures identified. Submission of the action plans for those projects would allow the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to assist the State Party to maximise the repair of past negative impacts.

The ongoing revision of the Management Plan, based on an agreement that gives the local municipality a role in the management of the property, is an essential step in strengthening the protection and management system of the property. Considering the range of past recommendations made by the Committee, the 2022 mission and ICOMOS Technical Reviews, the Committee may wish to request that the State Party develop an action plan to address these as part of the updated Management Plan.

A rigorous HIA for the Anzele Urban Design Project will be an important process in delivering a project that does not harm this highly sensitive area of the property.

With regard to the suspended Tram Line project, the 2022 mission recommended further archaeological investigations and the submission of detailed information to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies. This should be undertaken, should the project be revived and before continuing any work to be carried out in the vicinity of the city walls.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.15

The World Heritage Committee,

9. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.2,*
10. *Recalling Decisions **39 COM 8B.32**, **41 COM 7B.50**, **43 COM 7B.90**, **44 COM 7B.56** and **45 COM 7B.57**, adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015), 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019), extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions, respectively,*
11. *Notes the State Party's:*
 - a) *Continued restoration of the city walls in recent years, including in response to the 2023 earthquake,*
 - b) *Actions to address several recommendations of the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission, including the suspension of projects and the development of programmes to reverse recent actions that have had a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and the commitment of the State Party to submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies,*
 - c) *Commissioning of Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs) as requested by the Committee at the time of inscription and as a prerequisite for development projects and activities that are planned for implementation within or around a World Heritage property, as set out in Paragraph 118bis of the Operational Guidelines,*
 - d) *Commitment to submit to the World Heritage Centre various plans and their associated HIAs for the projects to be reviewed by the Advisory Bodies before any irreversible decisions are taken, which would include the progress study as a result of the georadar survey in the re-landscaped lower area of Içkale, further detailed*

analysis and possible land management strategies for the Hevsel Gardens, proposals to reduce the impact of the Tigris Valley Recreation and Afforestation Project around the Ten-Eyed bridge, proposals to reduce the negative impact of the Tourist Ring Road between Mardin and Dag Gates;

12. *Requests that decisions on the adoption or implementation of projects that may affect the OUV of the property, including the Anzele Urban Design Project, not be implemented until they have been found to be appropriate to the maintenance of the property's OUV through review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
13. *Welcomes the process of dialogue initiated between the State Party, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies; the agreement signed between the General Directorate of Cultural Properties and Museums and the Diyarbakır Municipality leading to the update of the Management Plan; as well as the first study of the Hevsel Gardens, conducted and submitted to the World Heritage Centre;*
14. *Also requests that an action plan outlining the further implementation of past Committee decisions and the recommendations of the 2022 mission and the ICOMOS Technical Reviews be included as part of the Management Plan and that the latter be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to its adoption;*
15. *Further requests that the further studies of the Hevsel Gardens that the State Party intends to undertake focus on the changes that have occurred since the inscription of the property in terms of plot size, crops, use, ownership, as well as the historical and functional links to the city, socio-historical agricultural practices, ecology and the contribution that the traditional irrigation system may make to the OUV of the property;*
16. *Expresses its concern at the considerable changes to the Ten-Eyed Bridge that have virtually destroyed its historic setting and requests furthermore that the State Party develop an action plan with timeline of feasible actions to reverse the negative impacts of the developments that have taken place in the setting of the Bridge since inscription and submit this action plan to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;*
17. *Recalling its request at the time of inscription of the property that the State Party strengthen the legal protection of the buffer zone to protect the urban fabric, including through reinforcement of the provisions of the Conservation Plan in the Suriçi District and also noting that the Suriçi Conservation Plans are legally binding but can be updated, request moreover the State Party to:*
 - a) *Re-evaluate the current development plans, based on an evaluation of the status quo of the built fabric of the Suriçi District and its contribution to the setting of the OUV of the property,*
 - b) *Develop a draft update of the current development plans through an iterative HIA process to deliver a plan that strengthens the contribution of the district to the OUV as part of its setting,*
 - c) *Submit the assessments, the draft updated plans and the HIAs to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies prior to any irreversible decision taken;*
18. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, including the requested action plans, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session.*

16. Historic Areas of Istanbul (Türkiye) (C 356bis)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.3

**17. Derwent Valley Mills (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
(C 1030)**

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.3

AFRICA

21. Aksum (Ethiopia) (C 15)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (i)(iv)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/15/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1996-1996)

Total amount approved: USD 2,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/15/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided: USD 5.07 million by the Italian Funds-in-Trust for the “Aksum Archaeological Site Improvement Project: Preparatory studies for the reinstallation of the Obelisk and capacity building for archaeological conservation - Phase 1”, “Reinstallation of the Obelisk - Phase 2” and “Consolidation of Stele III”

Previous monitoring missions

November 1998: ICCROM reappraisal mission for the World Bank; 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009: missions of the World Heritage Centre and experts for the implementation of the Obelisk project; February 2010 and January 2013: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring missions; February 2016: ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Insufficient delimitation of this serial property
- Lack of conservation and management plans
- Lack of appropriate urban planning and building regulations
- Urban encroachment and inappropriate new developments
- Rising water level / seepage
- Structural instability of Stele III and Mausoleum
- Lack of progress on Church Museum construction
- Housing
- Interpretative and visitation facilities
- Impact of the recent conflict on cultural heritage in the Tigray region

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/15/>

Current conservation issues

The State Party did not submit the state of conservation report, which was requested by the World Heritage Committee at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023).

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

The State Party did not provide in a timely manner, a report on the state of conservation of the property. This delay in reporting by the State Party makes it difficult for the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM to provide in-depth analysis to the World Heritage Committee, which would allow it to effectively monitor the state of conservation of the property.

It is noted that the property remains threatened by the lack of detailed boundary delineation of this serial property and its buffer zone, the impact of the conflict including violence against civilians, looting of cultural artefacts and goods, as well as the damage to structures in the property, as reported by the State Party in its latest report on the state of conservation of the property in 2019.

The State Party did not invite the joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property, as requested by the Committee in its Decision **45 COM 7B.123**.

It is recommended that the Committee reiterate its request to the State Party to develop the Action Plan with timelines for the implementation of the recommendations of the 2013 and 2016 missions and previous decisions of the Committee.

It is also recommended that the Committee express its regret that no report on state of conservation of the property was provided timeously to allow for its analysis, and that the Committee requests the State Party to provide information on the implementation of the recommendations made in its Decision in the form of a progress report.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.21

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.2,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.3** and **45 COM 7B.123** adopted at its 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 45th (Riyadh, 2024) extended sessions respectively,*
3. *Regrets that the State Party has not submitted in a timely manner a report on the state of conservation of the property;*
4. *Notes with concern that the lack of timely reporting from the State Party makes it difficult for the World Heritage Committee to monitor the state of conservation of the property, given the significant conservation threats it faces;*
5. *Also notes with concern that the property remains threatened, notably by the impacts of the recent conflict including violence against civilians, looting of cultural artefacts and goods, as well as damage to structures in the property, as previously reported upon by the State Party, and requests the State Party to provide to the World Heritage Centre as soon as possible updated information on these factors, including a detailed damage assessment of the archaeological and built attributes of the property that could allow to better determine the degree of threat the property is currently facing;*
6. *Reiterates its requests that the State Party develop an Action Plan with timelines for the implementation of the recommendations of the 2013 and 2016 missions and previous decisions of the Committee, and submit, by **1 February 2025**, a copy of this Action Plan, for review by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
7. *Also reiterates its request to the State Party to invite a joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to carry out a comprehensive assessment of its state of conservation and identify measures needed to ensure the conservation management and protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, as soon as the security situation allows;*
8. *Calls again for an increased mobilization of the international community to provide financial and technical support to the State Party, including through International Assistance, to implement the short- and medium-term measures to improve the state of conservation of the property;*
9. *Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025** a progress report, and by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.*

23. Osun-Osogbo Sacred Grove (Nigeria) (C 1118)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.3

24. Stone Town of Zanzibar (United Republic of Tanzania) (C 173rev)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.3

ASIA AND PACIFIC

35. Vat Phou and Associated Ancient Settlements within the Champasak Cultural Landscape (Lao People's Democratic Republic) (C 481)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 2001

Criteria (iii)(iv)(vi)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/481/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 1 (from 1999)

Total amount approved: USD 13,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/481/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust project: USD 379,040 (1996-1997); Projects funded by Italy through the Lericci Foundation: USD 482,194 (1996-2004, 3 project phases): Phase I (1996-1997), USD 161,124; Phase II (1998-1999), USD 164,000; Phase III (2003-2005), USD 157,070; UNESCO/France Cooperation Agreement: 20,000 EUR (2020-2021) jointly for Vat Phou and the Plain of Jars

Previous monitoring missions

January/February 2011: UNESCO Mission; November 2011: France-UNESCO Convention Programme mission; February 2012: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; April 2013: France-UNESCO Convention Programme mission, March 2014: France-UNESCO Convention Programme mission; February 2015: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission; December 2023: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICCROM/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Ground transport infrastructure (New infrastructure construction, including new proposed roads)
- Housing (New constructions contributing to the haphazard densification of the main monumental complex)
- Management systems/Management Plan (Lack of a coordinated management mechanism)
- Impacts of tourism/visitors/recreation
- Interpretative and Visitation facilities (Parking lot and visitor centre)
- Human resources (Lack of sufficient professional staff)
- Water infrastructure related to water supply
- Water infrastructure: Hydropower Dam construction

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/481/>

Current conservation issues

A joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS/ICCROM Reactive Monitoring mission visited the property in December 2023 (mission report available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/481/documents/>).

On 1 February 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at the above-mentioned web address. Progress on a number of conservation issues addressed by the Committee during previous sessions is presented:

- It is investigating options for funding to finalise the updated Management Plan in response to the recommendations made in the ICOMOS technical review;

- Further elaboration of the Building Code and urban control guidelines are planned to strengthen the control of new construction in the property;
- Issues related to sustainable development, cultural landscape management, nature conservation and tourism management have been given more visibility in the Action Plan 2022-2026
- The updated Management Plan includes provisions from the Champasak Cultural Landscape Plan;
- No funds have been identified for the bypass project. Heavy vehicles are not allowed to use Route 14A;
- A mapping project to produce topographic maps of the property for submission to the World Heritage Centre is ongoing, with the support of the CHAMPA project funded by France (AFD)
- The mitigation measures outlined in the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) on the Champasak Water Supply State Enterprise water supply extension were implemented. A report is provided;
- The National Heritage Law, revised and adopted in 2021, integrates new provisions for HIAs, including for World Heritage properties. Further legal reforms relating to HIAs are being investigated;
- An HIA on the Champa Garden tree planting project has not been completed due to lack of trained personnel. Assistance from the national authorities as well as international experts is requested. Most of the trees planted have died and no further planting is planned;
- The Project Development Agreement for the Phou Ngoy Dam was renewed in February 2023 conditional to the proponent studying its potential impact through a HIA and to work directly with the Department of Heritage, Ministry of Information Culture and Tourism. An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) has been completed and approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. The State Party has approved a feasibility study for the project and a basic design exists. The project has not been officially registered for the Prior Consultation (PC) mechanism of the Mekong River Commission (MRC), due to the request of MRC to postpone the PC for the Pho Ngoy Dam until the completion of the PC for Sanakham Hydropower Project.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

Infrastructure developments in and around this property have been a source of concern for over a decade. Third-party reports of road construction through the property in 2010 brought the property into the state of conservation monitoring processes, and the need for a Master Plan and a Management Plan for the property, was underlined. The Committee has subsequently considered issues regarding urban development, visiting infrastructure development and landscaping/tree planting, all in the property.

More recently the proposed construction of a dam at Phou Ngoy close to the northern buffer zone of the World Heritage property has intensified concerns for the maintenance of its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). While duly honouring the aspiration of the country to become the “Battery of Southeast Asia” by exporting hydropower energy to neighbouring countries through the regional power grid designed to reach ASEAN’s goal of net-zero emissions, the Committee may wish to request that this policy be applied in congruence with the need for preserving the country’s invaluable heritage, in particular the Vat Phou and Luang Prabang World Heritage properties.

None of these development projects were communicated to the Committee prior to their inception, as States Parties are invited to do in Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines.

Progress over the last decade includes completion of the Champasak Cultural Landscape Plan and drafting of a Management Plan and their subsequent update. An ICOMOS technical review of the revised Management Plan of November 2022 provided recommendations for its further refinement. The State Party should be encouraged to make resources available to the management unit, to ensure that the Management Plan revision process can be completed. Resource limitations have also curtailed the implementation of another request by the Committee: completing the planned road network, the delay of which leads to continuous vehicular traffic through the property, with consequent systemic negative impacts.

The State Party has made welcome progress in fortifying its conservation legislation, including the revision of National Heritage Law in 2021 enforcing mandatory implementation of HIAs, possibly for all

development projects with potential negative impacts on World Heritage properties and the national heritage of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR).

The 2023 Reactive Monitoring mission recommends in particular that:

- The state of conservation of the archaeological structures is generally acceptable, but some areas, specifically the South Quadrangle and the central axis require urgent intervention, and technical cooperation should apply highest international standards aligned with the Lao PDR authorities' leadership and ownership;
- Non-archaeological structures including the project office, shops and sanitary facilities, constructed after the inscription of the property, should be relocated to lessen any visual impact on the property if these locations are not imperative for providing accessibility to elderly and disabled visitors;
- The property boundaries need to be more clearly defined to effectively protect the OUV of the property, notably its attributes as a cultural landscape. It is important to note that the State Party has implemented a boundary regime which seems to relegate some areas of the property to the status of buffer zone;
- An official buffer zone needs to be established urgently. The State Party is advised to submit a proposal that outlines a buffer zone of which the delineation takes consideration of the important contribution of the landscape setting to the OUV of the property with appropriate protection measures established for the buffer zone;
- Strict control is necessary over the expansion and renewal of the settlements;
- The revision of the 2016 Champasak Cultural Landscape Master Plan needs to be completed to align it with the actual property boundaries and a future buffer zone, after this has been adopted by the Committee;
- Considering potential impacts of the Pho Ngoy Dam on the OUV of the property due to its current projected location close to the archaeological sites on the banks of the Mekong River, it is recommended to explore an alternative location, or consider the validity of the current location through a rigorous impact assessment undertaken on the project, over the full scope of the property's attributes before irreversible decisions are taken.

The management and conservation of the property need to be framed on the basis of a clearly defined retrospective Statement of OUV (RSOUV). Finalizing the RSOUV and the boundaries of the property and its buffer zone are critical to ensuring its improved management and to providing the baseline for decision-making and impact assessments. As the Project Development Agreement (PDA) for the Phou Ngoy Dam was renewed in February 2023, it would be appropriate for the State Party to submit urgently the ESIA produced for the project, if this project location continues to be explored. The same requirement for Impact Assessments applies to a project with alternative location if it is still within the buffer zone or wider setting of the property. The Committee may wish to request that no further decisions that cannot be reversed be taken to allow as wide a range of mitigation options, including relocation, remain as possibilities to be assessed in the requested HIA.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.35

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.2,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **39 COM 7B.68, 40 COM 7, 43 COM 7B.68, 44 COM 7B.146 and 45 COM 7B.168** adopted at its 39th (Bonn, 2015), 40th (Istanbul, 2016), 43rd (Baku, 2019) extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021), and extended 45th (Riyadh, 2023) sessions respectively,*
3. *Commends the State Party's efforts in revising National Heritage Law with strong provisions concerning the necessity of impact assessments for development projects*

that may affect Lao Peoples' Democratic Republic (PDR)'s national heritage and World Heritage properties;

4. Welcomes the planned strengthening of the building codes and urban control guidelines, the planned revision of the Management Plan in line with the recommendations made by ICOMOS and requests that the State Party submit these to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies;
5. Notes again the need for a clearer definition and understanding of the physical and other attributes of the property that convey its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), particularly in relation to the wider cultural landscape and Champasak town and that such consideration should involve meaningful consultation with the local community, and also requests the State Party in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, to finalise a draft Statement of OUV for examination by the Committee at its 47th session;
6. Also recalling past decisions requesting the State Party submit an up-to-date topographic map of the property as inscribed in 2001, and that clarification of the property boundaries are a prerequisite for the strengthening of the building codes and urban control guidelines and updating both the Management Plan and the Champasak Cultural Landscape Plan, further reiterates its request to the State Party to submit the map by **1 December 2024**, for examination by the Committee at its 47th session if the technical requirements are met;
7. Encourages the State Party to investigate for the purposes of effective protection of the property, a buffer zone delineation, considering the recommendations of the 2023 Reactive Monitoring mission and to submit a proposal and rationale for the buffer zone delineation to the World Heritage Centre by **1 December 2024**, for examination by the Committee at its 47th session if the technical requirements are met;
8. Also notes again with concern that the State Party requires the financial resources to the completion of the adapted road network, including Roads 14A and 14B, and revision of the Management Plan and also encourages again the State Party to keep exploring options to mobilise the necessary resources and complete the pending work;
9. Also notes the conclusions and recommendations of the 2023 mission, and request furthermore the State Party and concerned stakeholders to implement its recommendations, including:
 - a) Urgently stabilising at-risk archaeological structures, including at the Southern Quadrangle and the central axis, and other conservation interventions to the highest international standards aligned with the Lao PDR authorities' leadership and ownership,
 - b) Necessary measures to lessen the visual impacts of recent non-archaeological infrastructure inside the main temple complex,
 - c) Integration of the archaeological remains outside the main temple complex (Ancient City, Tomo Temple) into the conservation, research and valorisation programme,
 - d) Enhancement of preservation measures for landscape setting, through a clearer definition of the attributes of the OUV, delineation of the boundaries, zoning and buffer zone definition and strict control over the expansion and renewal of the settlements;

10. *Further notes* the State Party's will to become the "Battery of Southeast Asia" by exporting hydropower energy to neighbouring countries to reach ASEAN's goal of net-zero emissions, *encourages* the State Party to realise this objective in congruence with its commitment to preserving the OUV of the properties located within its territory;
11. *Considering* the proximity of the projected site for the Phou Ngoy Dam to the archaeological sites of the property and its possible impacts on the attributes that support its OUV, *notes furthermore* the stated commitment of the State Party to undertake a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) and that the Project Development Agreement (PDA) for this project was renewed in February 2023, *requests moreover* the State Party to:
 - a) Consider an alternative location for this hydropower project,
 - b) Not start any further on-site operations that would limit the mitigation options available to the HIA,
 - c) Urgently submit the already completed and approved Environmental and Social Impact Assessment along with any other details on the project that are available to the State Party to the World Heritage Centre and submit the possibly forthcoming HIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, in compliance with Paragraph 118 bis of the Operational Guidelines,
 - d) Ensure full agreement on the impacts and mitigation thereof of the project with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies before taking any further decisions on its implementation;
12. *Reminds* the State Party to inform the World Heritage Centre in due course about any major development project that may negatively impact the OUV of a property, before any irreversible decisions are made, in line with Paragraph 172 of the Operational Guidelines;
13. *Finally requests* the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session.

38. Archaeological Ruins at Moenjodaro (Pakistan) (C 138)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1980

Criteria (ii)(iii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/138/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 1982-2022)

Total amount approved: USD 176,000

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/138/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount provided to the property: USD 23,500,000 (total of contributions for the International Safeguarding Campaign for Moenjodaro)

Previous monitoring missions

Following the closing of the UNESCO International Safeguarding Campaign (1974-1997), numerous UNESCO and expert missions have been carried out. November/December 2006: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission; October 2010: post-flood World Heritage Centre expert assessment mission; November 2022/January 2023: emergency World Heritage expert mission; March 2023: Joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Lack of appropriate conservation work;
- Deterioration of structures;
- Suspension of management system;
- Issues linked to water (drainage, water stagnation, flooding)
- Damage arising from the 2022 Monsoon

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/138/>

Current conservation issues

On 20 January 2024, the State Party submitted a state of conservation report, which is available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/138/documents>. Progress in addressing the conservation issues raised by the Committee at its previous sessions as well as the response to the 2022 monsoon damage are presented in this report, as follows:

- In August 2022, the property received disastrous monsoonal rainfall, seriously affecting the archaeological remains, and causing severe structural damage, including collapsed walls, cavities in structures, erosion of slopes and mud pushta, drainage overload and weakening of wall bottoms and foundations;
- There is a need to adopt a very cautious approach to repair based on thorough understanding of the cause and processes of deterioration. Expert research is deepening understanding of the major causes of deterioration, and informing conservation practices related to drainage systems and flooring, bonding between old and new materials, and the quality of mortar and bricks at wall bases;
- Efforts undertaken in conserving the site, in association with international partners and non-government stakeholders, have focused on preserving the property's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV);
- Damage to specific quarters, monuments, structures and infrastructure is outlined, with condition maps. The main causes of decay are superficial drainage, salt crystallization and hydration inside masonry, pre-existing weaknesses and especially structural degradation resulting from insufficient capacity of the wall capping to absorb water, and water stagnation, that weakens the bases of walls;
- UNESCO expert emergency missions in 2022 and 2023 provided technical advice including proposed priorities, which has incorporated within an integrated conservation strategy with both short-term and long-term objectives;
- Short-term conservation actions continue for the most vulnerable and damaged parts of the property;
- The Conservation Manual for the property sets out three major remedial actions, namely application of mud slurry, application of mud plaster and replacement of salt-laden earth;
- An expanded workforce, including experienced masons and laborers, has been deployed to cope with the immediate preservation needs as well as with the longer-term conservation actions as necessary;
- Site visits and training by experts have improved conservation methods and the overall response to the impacts of climate change;
- An initial technical proposal for an international appeal to secure funds for a multi-annual preservation project has been prepared for consideration of the World Heritage Centre.

The requested joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission to the property took place in March 2024.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM

UNESCO has actively supported the property from through an initial global campaign between 1974 and 1997, and more recently with emergency missions in November 2022 and February 2023. Despite these efforts, the property continues to face profound physical conservation challenges, which have been exacerbated and highlighted by the disastrous effects of monsoonal rains and flooding in August 2022. The property has endured significant damage, is subject to ongoing deterioration, and attributes which support its OUV remain at risk.

The State Party is to be commended for its actions following the August 2022 monsoon, including close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre regarding the emergency missions' recommendations, elaboration of an integrated conservation strategy, short-term conservation actions, research into major causes of deterioration, and expansion and training of the property's workforce. The State Party should be encouraged to continue these efforts, including completion of overall condition assessments with maps by quarters and by damage and risk, continuation of short-term conservation actions addressing the most vulnerable and damaged parts of the property, and ongoing research into the causes of deterioration and appropriate preventive and remedial actions.

The March 2024 joint Reactive Monitoring mission assessed the state of conservation of the property, reviewed the management and conservation framework, advised about management and conservation tools, and reviewed the efficacy and appropriateness of emergency measures following the August 2022 monsoon. The mission found that the property retains its integrity and authenticity, largely through intensive and continued efforts of the management authority and staff, but remains vulnerable, and that fundamental causes of deterioration, such as intensive saline action, and moisture leading to rapid erosion, continue because they arise from the property's geological conditions. The mission report provides extensive recommendations, including further research, equipment needs and data management, conservation interventions and methodologies, vulnerability assessment, short- and long-term priorities, drainage, stakeholder and public participation, the site museum, and overall governance, which the State Party should be encouraged to implement. The elaboration of an integrated Management Plan, together with a refined draft Disaster Risk Reduction plan for 2023-2030, is needed to coordinate preservation efforts in light of increasing threats from exceptional and unpredictable weather events.

Noting the extensive programme of preventive and remedial conservation works, it would be timely for the Committee to remind the State Party that Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), following the methodology of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, should be prepared for projects with potential impact on the OUV of the property, and documentation, including HIAs, should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to commencement, in conformity with paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, prior to making any irreversible decisions.

In Decision **45 COM 7B.169**, the Committee recognised that the property warrants a new phase of large-scale international technical and financial support. A multi-annual international project would enable an integrated approach embracing conservation, disaster risk reduction, and advanced research on the optimal conservation measures. It is therefore welcome that the State Party has elaborated a technical proposal to secure funds for a multi-annual preservation project for study of the World Heritage Centre, and the Committee should encourage its support by all State Parties.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.38

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.2,*
2. *Recalling Decision 45 COM 7B.169, adopted at its extended 45th session (Riyadh, 2023),*
3. *Commends the State Party's continued actions and commitment following the August 2022 monsoon and flood impacts, in particular its close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre regarding the recommendations of the UNESCO emergency missions*

in 2022 and 2023, the elaboration of the integrated conservation strategy, short-term conservation actions, research into major causes of deterioration, and expansion and training of the workforce, and encourages the State Party to continue its efforts, including:

- a) Completion of the overall condition assessments of the property with maps by quarters and by damage and risk,
 - b) Continuation of short-term conservation actions to address the most vulnerable and damaged parts of the property,
 - c) Ongoing research regarding the causes of deterioration and appropriate preventive and remedial actions;
4. Takes note of the findings and conclusions of the March 2024 joint World Heritage Centre/ICOMOS Reactive Monitoring mission, and requests the State Party to implement its recommendations, including on conservation and management, further research, equipment needs and data management, appropriate conservation interventions and methodologies and their evaluation for effectiveness, vulnerability assessment, short- and long-term priorities, drainage, stakeholder participation, the site museum, elaboration of an integrated Management Plan with a refined Disaster Risk Reduction plan, and overall governance;
5. Reminds the State Party that Heritage Impact Assessments (HIAs), following the methodology of the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context, should be prepared for projects with potential impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property, and documentation, including the HIAs, should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies, prior to commencement, in conformity with paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines, prior to making any irreversible decisions;
6. Also encourages the State Party to continue its collaboration with the World Heritage Centre to finalise the technical proposal for the proposed multi-annual preservation project, to secure funds to support conservation needs, to review and possibly update the existing management and conservation tools, and to establish an Integrated Management Plan to strengthen emergency response and preparedness to the multiple effects of climate change and extreme natural hazards; and calls on all States Parties to support this appeal;
7. Finally Requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.

43. Central Sector of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long – Hanoi (Viet Nam) (C 1328)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.3

MIXED PROPERTIES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

44. Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region (Albania, North Macedonia) (C/N 99quater)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.3

45. Laponian Area (Sweden) (C/N 774)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.3

AFRICA

48. Ngorongoro Conservation Area (United Republic of Tanzania) (C/N 39bis)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.3

ARAB STATES

49. The Ahwar of Southern Iraq: Refuge of Biodiversity and the Relict Landscape of the Mesopotamian Cities (Iraq) (C/N 1481)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.3

NATURAL PROPERTIES

EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

50. Białowieża Forest (Belarus, Poland) (N 33ter)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.3

51. Wadden Sea (Denmark, Germany, Netherlands) (N 1314ter)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.3

52. Lake Baikal (Russian Federation) (N 754)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.3

53. Volcanoes of Kamchatka (Russian Federation) (N 765bis)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1996

Criteria (vii)(viii)(ix)(x)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/765/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 0

Total amount approved: USD 0

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/765/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

N/A

Previous monitoring missions

February 2001: UNESCO mission; May 2004: UNESCO-IUCN mission; April 2006: IUCN Retrospective Inventory mission; August 2007, August 2019: joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Illegal activities (illegal salmon fishing)
- Mining (gold mining)
- Major linear utilities (gas pipeline)

- Renewable energy facilities (development of a geothermal power station)
- Fires
- Management and institutional factors (boundary changes)
- Governance (lack of management structure and coordination system)
- Ground transport infrastructure (construction of the Esso-Palana road)
- Legal framework (need for the development of a comprehensive national legal framework for the protection and management of natural properties)
- Decline in populations of wild reindeer and snow sheep
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure (impacts of proposed tourism infrastructure development - 'Three Volcanoes Park')

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/765/>

Current conservation issues

On 19 February 2024, the State Party submitted an incomplete report on the state of conservation of the property, followed by an updated report received on 26 March and available at <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/765/documents/>, reporting the following:

- In 2022, efforts to establish a new 'Volcanoes of Kamchatka' National Park on the basis of the Kluchevskoy Nature Park (KNP) and South Kamchatka Nature Park (SKNP) were initiated, followed by a draft resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation, which is currently undergoing the relevant approval procedures;
- Following the establishment of the National Park in 2024, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment will determine its protected zone. The Vilyuchinskaya and Zhirovaya bays are expected to be included;
- The "Three Volcanoes Park" tourism resort project is being implemented outside the property with a view to reduce the anthropogenic load on the property by creating a regulated tourism and recreational infrastructure in the adjacent territory;
- The capacity and maximum permissible changes in the Valley of the Geysers, the most visited part of the Kronotsky State Nature Reserve (KSNR), will be re-evaluated in 2024. Similarly, the maximum permissible recreational capacity of the Nalychevo Nature Park (NNP) will also be evaluated as part of a 2024 pilot project;
- Work has been carried out on the functional zoning of the Nature Parks by establishing a special protection regime for each functional zone and regulations;

The joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission requested for the property and originally planned for March 2022 had to be postponed and has not been rescheduled to date due to logistical constraints. On 7 May 2024, the State Party invited the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property to be carried out in September 2024.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The insufficient information provided in response to the Committee's previous requests, in particular with regard to ongoing tourism-related development and actions to control and limit unsustainable tourism, the improvement of the zoning of the property, the establishment of effective buffer zones around the components (Decisions **44 COM 7B.109** and **45 COM 7B.26**), makes it difficult to assess the level of implementation of the Committee's previous decision and the effectiveness of the measures taken by the State Party.

The ongoing process to establish a "Volcanoes of Kamchatka National Park" based on the existing SKNP and KNP is noted. This will upgrade the legal protection of two of the four Nature Parks included in the property from regional to federal status, responding to a long-standing recommendation of the Committee. However, it is unclear whether the new National Park will include all of the areas included in the property at the time of inscription on the World Heritage List. It is recalled that in its previous report, the State Party confirmed that the boundaries of SKNP had been changed and that certain areas included in the property had been removed from SKNP, including Vilyuchinskaya and Zhirovaya bays, thereby depriving them of their protection status and jeopardising the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. It is therefore crucial that the new National Park encompasses all the areas included in the property at the time of inscription, including Vilyuchinskaya and Zhirovaya bays. While it

is noted that the State Party mentions in its report that both areas '*are expected to be included within the boundaries of the National Park's protected zone*', it is unclear whether this zone is part of the proposed National Park or only in the buffer zone. Recalling that the World Heritage status requires that the legal protection of the property be adequate to protect its OUV, these areas should be included in the National Park and it should be ensured that the level of their protection would not permit the development of large-scale tourism infrastructure. In this respect, the World Heritage Centre and IUCN recommend that the Committee recall that inadequate legal protection constitutes a clear potential danger to the property as foreseen under Paragraph 180(b)(i) of the Operational Guidelines.

Recalling that the Three Volcanoes Park project was previously proposed to be partially located within the property, it is noted that the State Party now reports that it will be implemented outside of the property. It is recommended that the State Party be requested to provide more information on the current status and design of the project, including maps showing where infrastructure is planned in relation to the boundaries of the property. It is stressed that even if the footprint of the project falls outside of the boundaries of the property, the potential impacts on the OUV of the property, considering its proximity to the property, would still need to be assessed through an Environmental Impact Assessment, conducted in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context and submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before proceeding further with the project implementation.

Tourism development remains a significant potential threat to the property. It is therefore important for the Committee to recall the recommendation of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission to prepare a Master Plan for Tourism Development.

The information that work has been carried out on the functional zoning of the Nature Parks by establishing a special protection regime for each functional zone and regulations is noted. It needs to be recalled that the 2019 mission expressed concern that, despite the recommendation of the 2007 mission to increase the number of strict protection zones, changes to the zoning had significantly diminished the area of the property benefiting from a strict protection regime, and the mission considered that the zoning did not meet the requirements for the protection of the OUV. It is therefore recommended that the State Party be requested to provide detailed information on the functional zoning currently in place in all components of the property, as well as details of the regulations and special protection regimes in place for the different zones, to ensure that they meet the requirements for the protection of the property's OUV.

Recalling the Committee's request to ensure that the remaining recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission to the property are implemented by the end of 2023, following the development of an Action Plan to this end, it is regrettable that no information was provided on the implementation of these recommendations. The State Party should therefore inform the World Heritage Centre of the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan, including the improvement of the zoning of the property, the establishment of effective buffer zones around the components and actions to control and limit unsustainable tourism.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.53

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **44 COM 7B.109** and **45 COM 7B.26** adopted at its 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 45th (Riyadh, 2023) extended sessions, respectively,*
3. *Regrets the lack of information provided by the State Party and urges the State Party to provide a detailed update on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission to the property and on the implementation of the above-mentioned previous Decisions of the Committee;*
4. *Welcomes the initiative to establish the Volcanoes of Kamchatka National Park, but notes that it is unclear whether all the areas of the South Kamchatka and Kluchevskoy Nature*

Parks, as included in the property, are within the proposed National Park, and urges the State Party to ensure that the new National Park comprises the entire territory of the Nature Parks, as included in the property at the time of inscription, including the Vilyuchinskaya and Zhirovaya Bays;

5. Recalls that World Heritage status requires that the legal protection of the property is adequate to protect its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and that modifications to the legal protection may constitute a potential danger to the property as provided for in Paragraph 180(b)(i) of the Operational Guidelines;
6. Welcomes the information that the Three Volcanoes Park tourism resort development project has been revised to be implemented outside the property, and requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre the Environmental Impact Assessment for the revised project to assess the potential impacts on the OUV of the property, in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, together with detailed information on the current status and design of the project, including maps showing where infrastructure is being planned in relation to the boundaries of the property, before proceeding further with the project implementation;
7. Reiterates its request to the State Party to prepare a Master Plan for Tourism Development in the property, as recommended by the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission;
8. Also requests the State Party to provide detailed information on the functional zoning currently in place in all components of the property, as well as details of the regulations and special protection regimes in place for the different zones, recalling the conclusion of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission that the zoning of the different components of the property did not meet the requirements of protecting the OUV;
9. Further requests the State Party to report on the progress made in implementing the Action Plan to address the recommendations of the 2019 Reactive Monitoring mission;
10. Requests furthermore that the joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission to the property assess the adequacy of the legal protection of the property and the consistency of proposed tourism-related developments with the conservation of the OUV of the property, in particular the Three Volcanoes Park, the implementation of the recommendations of the 2019 mission to the property, as well as the overall state of conservation of the property;
11. Finally requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2025**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session, **considering that the urgent conservation needs of this property require a broad mobilization to preserve its OUV, including the possible inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

AFRICA

59. Serengeti National Park (United Republic of Tanzania) (N 156)

See Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.3

60. Mosi-oa-Tunya / Victoria Falls (Zambia, Zimbabwe) (N 509)

Year of inscription on the World Heritage List 1989

Criteria (vii)(viii)

Year(s) of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger N/A

Previous Committee Decisions see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/509/documents/>

International Assistance

Requests approved: 6 (from 2001-2022)

Total amount approved: USD 118,585

For details, see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/509/assistance/>

UNESCO Extra-budgetary Funds

Total amount granted: USD 50,000 in 2015 through the UNESCO World Heritage Sustainable Tourism programme (Flanders Funds-in-Trust)

Previous monitoring missions

November 2006: joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission; February 2022: joint UNESCO/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

Factors affecting the property identified in previous reports

- Air pollution
- Drought
- Housing (uncontrolled urban development driven by population increase)
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Invasive/alien species
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure
- Management systems/ management plan
- Solid waste
- Surface water pollution
- Water extraction (related to existing hydropower production)
- Water infrastructure (project to construct a dam downstream of the property)
- Water infrastructure (Project to construct a dam across the gorge) (issue resolved)

Illustrative material see page <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/509/>

Current conservation issues

On 2 February 2024, the States Parties of Zambia and Zimbabwe submitted a state of conservation report for the property available at <https://whc.unesco.org/fr/list/509/documents/>, reporting the following:

- The States Parties commit to ensuring that the revision of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Batoka Gorge Hydro Electric Scheme (BGHES) is in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, stakeholders are

being engaged in mobilizing resources to conduct the recommended studies including the geomorphological and/or geological assessments and a Sustainable Development Programme;

- Discussions with the World Heritage Centre regarding the potential hosting of a Conference on Sustainable Development, including to share ideas on how projects of the magnitude of BGHES could be implemented without negatively impacting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), are in progress. Further details will be disseminated to stakeholders by June 2024;
- The Joint Integrated Management Plan (JIMP) is being revised with International Assistance funding and co-financing by the States Parties, and expected to be finalized by June 2024;
- The implementation of mitigation measures for the Mosi-oa-Tunya Livingstone Resort Hotel as part of legal conditions of approval issued by the Zambian Environmental Management Authority (ZEMA) and contained in the JIMP, is ongoing. The process to revise the ESIA has been initiated including the development of a comprehensive Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP);
- The requested boundary modification will be submitted;
- The States Parties take note of the Committee's request to seek early inputs and technical guidance from IUCN in undertaking the second phase of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on cumulative development and environmental pressure on the property;
- The States Parties are monitoring the effects of water entitlement and abstraction on the water flow within the property, which considers climate change;
- The States Parties endeavour to implement all the recommendations from the 2022 joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission;
- The 10-year (2023-2033) General Management Plans for the Zimbabwean components of the property have been completed;
- Ongoing research, monitoring and management activities include biannual bird surveys, annual vulture aerial surveys, indigenous tree planting, wildlife rescue and de-snaring, human-wildlife coexistence, wildlife collaring, annual site inspections, use of mechanical and chemical control methods against invasive species and undertaking controlled burning for fire management.
- A number of developments have been proposed to be undertaken within the property and its buffer zone, which are mostly at the scoping stage and, as required by environmental laws and the World Heritage Convention, have to undergo an Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessment process (EHIA); these developments are not specified in the report.

On 16 April 2024 the States Parties transmitted to the World Heritage Centre, an interim report on the progress of review of the JIMP, also highlighting their progress on the review of the zonation of the property.

Analysis and Conclusions of the World Heritage Centre and IUCN

The continued cooperation between the States Parties and their partners to improve the state of conservation of the property is appreciated, as is the ongoing research, monitoring and management activities that have been reported. The proposed conference on Sustainable Development may further strengthen these efforts.

The property continues to face significant development pressure from both individual and cumulative infrastructure projects. In this context, it is recommended that the Committee urge the States Parties to expedite the SEA on the cumulative development and environmental pressure on the property, seeking inputs and technical guidance from IUCN.

In March 2024, several news outlets reported plans by the States Parties to retender the BGHES by April 2025, with new potential developers expected by September of the same year. The commitment of the States Parties to revise the ESIA for BGHES in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context is noted, and this revised ESIA should be submitted to the World Heritage Centre before taking any decisions that may be difficult to reverse. As recommended by the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission, the ESIA should ensure an assessment of alternative scenarios to avoid negative impact on the OUV of the property.

Regarding tourism infrastructure development, recalling that the Mosi-oa-Tunya Livingstone Resort Hotel was constructed despite the Committee's request to halt further activities, details on the implementation of mitigation measures should be provided, ensuring that the infrastructure does not negatively impact the OUV of the property. It is regrettable that the State Party of Zimbabwe has still not provided a response to the third-party concerns transmitted in 2023 regarding a permit for two commercial tourism developments within areas of the property that are recognized as highly sensitive zones according to the previous JIMP (Cataract Island and its adjacent riverine rainforest area). Further information is also required on the developments proposed in the property and buffer zone that are currently under scoping stage and will require impact assessments; these projects should not proceed without the World Heritage Centre having been informed and the impact assessments concluded for review by the Advisory bodies.

Cumulative impacts from tourism infrastructure developments remain a concern for the protection of the OUV of the property and it is therefore important to emphasize again the need to ensure that any project proposal within, in the buffer zone, or in the wider setting of the property undergoes an ESIA in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and to urgently conclude the SEA and implement the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendation to develop a blueprint for infrastructure development in and around the property to guide strategic level planning.

In this regard, recalling the concerns over increasing pressure from tourism infrastructure within and around the property, exacerbated by the absence of strategic planning, the reported progress and planned completion of the updated JIMP for the property by June 2024 is acknowledged. As requested by the Committee (Decision **45 COM 7B.10**), the updated JIMP should incorporate the necessary safeguards and thresholds to mitigate against development pressures for the protection of the property's OUV, and it is recommended that the updated JIMP be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN prior to its adoption. It is positive that the 2023-2033 GMPs for the Zimbabwean components of the property have been completed, which should ensure full alignment with the updated JIMP.

The States Parties' confirmation that a boundary modification request will be submitted is noted. Recalling that inconsistent boundary maps have been utilized to date, the update of the JIMP is an opportunity to review the boundary, zonation and buffer zones, aiming to enhance the protection of the OUV of the property and aligning the JIMP with past Committee Decisions and the property's Statement of OUV.

Draft Decision: 46 COM 7B.60

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/24/46.COM/7B.Add.2,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **36 COM 7B.7**, **38 COM 7B.7**, **44 COM 7B.177** and **45 COM 7B.10** adopted at its 36th (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), 38th (Doha, 2014) sessions and at its, 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) and 45th (Riyadh) extended sessions respectively,*
3. *Appreciates the continuous cooperation between the States Parties and their partners to improve the state of conservation of the property, and to conduct the reported research, monitoring and management activities;*
4. *Urges the States Parties to expedite the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) on the cumulative development and environmental pressure on the property, seeking inputs and technical guidance from IUCN, and to conclude full implementation of all the 2022 Reactive Monitoring mission recommendations, including the development of a blueprint for infrastructure development in and around the property;*
5. *Noting again with concern the likely negative impacts of the proposed Batoka Gorge Hydro Electric Scheme (BGHES) on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the*

property, also takes note that the States Parties will revise the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) in line with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, and requests the States Parties to ensure that the revised ESIA includes alternative scenarios to avoid impact on the property, and to submit the revised ESIA to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN prior to taking any decision that is difficult to reverse;

6. Recalls with regret that the construction of the Mosi-oa-Tunya Livingstone Resort Hotel was concluded despite the Committee's request to halt further activities until the ESIA had been submitted to the World Heritage Centre and reviewed by IUCN, notes that the mitigation measures integral to legal conditions of approval issued by the Zambian Environmental Management Authority are being implemented, and also requests the States Parties to provide further details on the implementation of these mitigation measures to ensure that the infrastructure does not negatively affect the OUV of the property;
7. Further requests the States Parties to provide information on all developments proposed in the property, its buffer zone, and wider setting, including on a permit for two commercial tourism development sites within the Zimbabwean component of the property recognised as highly sensitive zones according to the previous JIMP, and also urges the States Parties to ensure that any project proposals that may impact the OUV undergo an ESIA in accordance with the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context before taking any decision that is difficult to reverse;
8. Also recalling its concern regarding the increasing pressure from tourism infrastructure within and around the property, exacerbated by the absence of strategic planning, acknowledges that the revision of the Joint Integrated Management Plan (JIMP) for the property is scheduled for completion by the end of June 2024, and request furthermore the States Parties to ensure that the JIMP incorporate necessary safeguards and thresholds to mitigate against developmental pressures for the protection of the property's OUV, set precise boundaries of the property, its zonation and buffer zones, be aligned with past Committee Decisions and the property's Statement of OUV, and be submitted to the World Heritage Centre for review by IUCN before it is adopted;
9. Further takes note of the States Parties' confirmation to submit a request for boundary modification;
10. Finally requests the States Parties to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 December 2025**, a joint updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 48th session.